

[NORTHFIELD SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES]

February 1, 2022

Northfield Town Hall
69 Main St

Selectboard Present: Heath Cummings, Chair; Barbara “Bee” Jacque, Vice Chair; Alexander Meisner; Bernard Boudreau, Clerk; Mary Sullivan-Bowen

Also Present: Andrea Llamas, Town Administrator; Sandra L. Wood, Town Secretary; Tyler Bourbeau, BNCTV

Others Present: Julia Blyth, Open Space Committee Chair; Joanne McGee, Open Space; Joseph Stacy, Recreation Committee Chair

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm
- First Light Recreation Proposal -Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Relicense
 - Jacque gave an overview of the current recreational sites on the south end of town and requests were made during negotiations with First Light to provide more river access in town.
 - Access to river for recreation including viewing
 - Access for those with disabilities (ADA)
 - Referred to the Open Space & Recreation plan devoted to the First Light areas (Ch. 9) and Julia Blyth’s participation as a former Selectboard member starting in 2016
 - Challenges
 - Access to First Light property abutting state and private property
 - Steepness of banks along the river
 - Map Review- existing and proposed sites
 - Proposed
 - Pocket-park at Pauchaug Schell Bridge Greenway, west side near the pedestrian bridge project
 - Mallory Brook campsite-paddle access only
 - Conservation of Bennett Meadow-add hiking trail like Alderbrook trail on Rte. 63. The state currently provides pheasant hunting
 - Relocate current tour boat dock and make the dock ADA in addition to canoe/kayak put in
 - Add up to 5 miles of mountain biking trails on the mountain center
 - Conserve Farley Ledge and make Rose Ledge a project recreation facility
 - Existing
 - Munn’s Ferry campsite
 - Riverview picnic area
 - Northfield Mountain Tour and Trail center
 - Joseph Stacy, Recreation Commission Chair addressed the Selectboard
 - Felt the Recreation Commission should have input into negotiations
 - Doesn’t feel First Light is showing interest based on what First Light offers
 - Stacy has not been successful communicating with First Light directly within the last 10 years.
 - Cummings proposed a town liaison for communications
 - Jacque added the use of First Light property may be an option outside of the license renewal process
 - Would like playing fields added to the list for use of all ages
 - Project chart review
 - The Selectboard reviewed the chart of recreation features proposed and existing and offered inquiries for Jacque to get clarifications on some of the wording.
 - Some of the proposed items listed were noted as off-license
 - An additional pocket park at an unspecified area for future development
 - A Recreational Advisory Group (and Recreation Management Plan) to meet annually to discuss use, operational and maintenance needs. This would be the vehicle to bring up

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- updated recreation needs and get input from town committees prior to the annual meeting
- Advertising for economic development
- Proposed Items listed as part of the license
 - Bennett Meadow Conservation
 - Riverview docking area changes
 - Biking trails on Northfield Mountain
 - Donate used sports equipment to local youth organizations
 - 2 new paddle access camping sites with the Appalachian Mountain Club
 - Pauchaug-Schell pocket park
 - Recreation management to be revisited every 10 years of the 50-year license
 - Conservation easements for First Light properties not used for specific projects to maintain riparian buffers and river right. Easements to include land where agricultural farming occurs to the river's edge.
- McGee requested a trail from the boat ramp to the bridge and was concerned about the conservation easement
- Blyth's idea was to connect east Northfield to Pioneer Valley Regional school with the bridge and a mountain bike trail
 - Topic to be revisited on February 8, 2022, Selectboard meeting
 - McGee and Blyth agreed Open Space Committee could take the lead on the bridge to boat ramp trail.
 - Submitted comments read from: Annie Chappell, Pat Shearer and Patter Field
 - Discussion on asking First Light for ideas for swimming (e.g. river, build a community pool) to address interest in swimming
- Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to posting
 - Architect Design screening interviews
 - Jacque and Cummings selected to do screening
- Motion by Jacque, seconded by Bowen the board voted to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

Recorded by Sandra L. Wood, Secretary

Selectboard Clerk

2/22/22
Date Approved